

Message

## Environment & Energy

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Report Highlights

**Bloomberg  
Environment**

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## Highlights

### LEADING THE NEWS

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#### EPA, in Closed-Door Meeting, Foresees Billions in Lead Rule Costs

By David Schultz

A new EPA regulation on lead in drinking water could impose tens of billions of dollars in costs on utilities and the cities that run them, according to an agency document obtained by Bloomberg Environment.

#### Nuclear, Coal Groups Target Tax Bill After Bailout Rejection

By Rebecca Kern

A tax extension bill is the next target of the coal and nuclear industries after federal energy regulators rejected a plan to subsidize some of those power plants in the wholesale energy markets.

## New Minnesota Senator Gets Seat on Energy Panel

By Dean Scott and Stephen Joyce

Environmental groups say they are banking on Minnesota's newly installed U.S. senator, Tina Smith (D), as a reliable ally on climate and environmental issues, as she picked up a coveted slot Jan. 9 on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

## Sri Lankan Tea Farmers Sense Trouble Brewing Over Glyphosate Ban

By Adam Allington

Tea farmers in Sri Lanka want their government to reauthorize the use of glyphosate for agriculture.

## Siemens, AES Energy-Storage Collaboration Upbeat on NY Plan

By Bobby Magill

New York's plan to invest \$200 million in energy storage could help boost demand for what new energy storage company Fluence, a creation of Siemens and AES Energy, sees as a growing market.

### **TODAY'S NEWS**

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## \$20 Per Ton Carbon Tax To Be Proposed by Washington Governor

By Paul Shukovsky

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) will propose a carbon tax Jan. 9 in his annual state-of-the-state speech to a Legislature where Democrats control both chambers.

## Environmentalists Challenge Safety of EPA's New Chemical Reviews

By Pat Rizzuto

A strategy the EPA is using to review and regulate new chemicals as they enter the market fails to protect people and the environment, according to a Natural Resources Defense Council federal court challenge.

## Four Superfund Sites Added to EPA's National Priorities List

By Steven Gibb

Four hazardous waste properties were added to the Environmental Protection Agency's national list of Superfund sites Jan. 9.

## Interior Relaxes Oil Leasing Guidance for Sage Grouse Areas

By Alan Kovski

Federal land managers have been given additional instruction from Interior Department headquarters on the flexibility they can apply to oil and gas permits in landscapes occupied by the greater sage grouse.

## Tesla's New York Gigafactory Kicks Off Solar Roof Production

By Brian Eckhouse

Tesla Inc. has kicked off production of its long-awaited electricity-producing shingles that Elon Musk says will transform the rooftop solar industry.

## Tesla, Neoen Deal Would Outdo Record-Breaking Battery Down Under

By Perry Williams

The developers of the world's biggest lithium-ion battery project may surpass their own record as French renewable-energy developer Neoen SAS looks into building another supersized unit in Australia with Elon Musk's Tesla Inc.

## **Big Oil's Wins Put King Coal's Gains to Shame**

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

After a string of recent successes—beginning even before President Donald Trump moved into the White House—API is honing in on just two major policy asks for Congress and the federal government: modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement and doing away with a program mandating biofuel use.

## **Mountain Valley Pipeline Project Draws Environmental Challenge**

By Andrew M. Ballard

A federal appeals court should immediately block construction of a 300-mile pipeline project that would run from West Virginia to Virginia, environmental advocates said.

## **EPA Added to Gold King Mine Spill Lawsuit by Utah**

By Tripp Baltz

Utah is negotiating with the Environmental Protection Agency to resolve the state's claims over damages from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill.

## **Spying Cow Flatulence from Space May Predict the Price of Steak**

By Dan Murtaugh

Palo Alto, California-based Bluefield Technologies Ltd. plans to launch a fleet of satellites that can detect methane emissions, a technology that has the potential to catch leaks at oil and gas facilities or monitor climate-change commitments by nations. The most immediate use, though, might be for commodity traders tracking the supply of cattle.

## **Paul Fenn Wants to Give Your Electric Company the Boot**

By Brian Eckhouse

Paul Fenn is a little-known consultant with an academic bent, but he may be the utility industry's enemy No. 1. For more than 25 years he's been pushing the idea that local communities ought to be able to set up their own power agencies to compete with established utilities. Local control, he says, can produce lower rates and greater use of renewable energy.

## **U.K. Ban on Microbeads Takes Effect to Save Oceans from Plastics**

By Anna Hirtenstein

U.K.'s ban on making products with microbeads—tiny plastic particles in everything from cosmetics to shampoo and toothpaste—takes effect Jan. 9 in an effort to protect marine life.

## **Poland's Ruling Party Shake-Up Brings New Environment Minister**

By Marek Strzelecki (Bloomberg News) and Bogdan Turek (Bloomberg Environment)  
Environmental groups welcomed news that Poland's environmental minister was among those being replaced in a massive reshuffle of the ruling party's government.

## **New Energy Efficiency Technologies Get Jump-Start in Finland**

By Marcus Hoy

Cutting-edge energy projects in Finland are eligible for up to 55 million euros (\$65.57 million) in state aid in 2018 under a new decree that places a greater emphasis on subsidizing unproven technologies.

## **Canadian Plant Needs Cash to Address Asbestos, Industry Group Says**

By James Munson

Canada's only chlor-alkali facility to use asbestos should receive government financial support for having to adjust to a proposed ban on the carcinogenic mineral, the country's chemical association told Bloomberg Environment.

## **Israel Deepens Coal-Generated Electricity Cut to 30 Percent**

By Matthew Kalman

Israel is reducing the amount of electricity generated from coal by 30 percent and boosting production fueled by natural gas piped from offshore fields to curb air pollution from power plants.

## **China Seen Set to Dominate Clean Energy After Investment Surge**

By Bloomberg News

China is set to dominate global construction and financing of clean energy after record investment in overseas ventures and takeovers last year.

## **Oil Burning on Tanker Off China Seen Cutting Sea-Spill Risks**

By Heesu Lee, Serene Cheong and Ann Koh

The fire engulfing an Iranian tanker off China is being fueled by the oil on board, a scenario seen reducing the amount of supply that may spill into the sea and cause widespread environmental damage.

## **Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Owner Avoids U.S. Sailors' Suit**

By Bernie Pazanowski

Tort claims by U.S. sailors against the owner of the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, claiming the plant's reactor, which was damaged in a 2011 tsunami, was negligently designed and maintained, were dismissed by the U.S. District Court for the District of Southern California Jan. 5.

## **Ethiopia Springs Into Action to Dispose of DDT Stockpile**

By Wachira Kigotho

Ethiopia is disposing of a 1,400-ton stockpile of DDT in partnership with two international organizations, and with some local support.

## **Exxon Seeks to Depose Officials Bringing Climate Change Suits**

By Peter Hayes

Exxon Mobil is alleging that climate change claims by several California municipalities are inconsistent with statements they made to investors in their bond offerings.

## Dow Chemical Pollution Case Redo Ordered on Appeal

By Steven M. Sellers

A California city doesn't have to show a direct link between Dow Chemical Co. and dry cleaners to hold the company liable for toxic chemicals disposed into city sewers, a California appeals court ruled Jan. 8.

### **MONDAY NIGHT WRAPUP**

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## Trump Renominates Candidates for Environmental, Safety Posts

By Rob Tricchinelli and Dean Scott

President Donald Trump Jan. 8 renominated Kathleen Hartnett White to serve as White House Council on Environmental Quality director and Andrew Wheeler to be deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Upton Bullish on Yucca Mountain, Small Energy Bills in 2018

By Rebecca Kern

Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.) is optimistic that the House will pass a bill to restart work on Yucca Mountain as a permanent storage of the nation's nuclear waste, he told Bloomberg Environment.

## Non-Renewables See Net Gain From Tax Law

By Lydia O'Neal

The new GOP tax law left non-renewable energy sectors with significant gains, such as temporary full expensing, but also with potential strains on project finance, including lower caps on interest and loss deductions. Except in the case of regulated utilities, however, industry observers don't expect product prices to reflect the companies' new windfalls.



# Bloomberg Environment

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